

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 11 (cancelled)

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12. (original) A method of forming metal pointed tips for use in a thermoelectric device, the method comprising:

forming a mask of patterned photoresist onto a layer of metal;

etching the layer of metal in the presence of the photoresist mask to produce substantially pointed tipped structures of metal; and

removing the photoresist.

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13. (original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the patterned photoresist forms an array of photoresist areas that correspond to areas for which tips of the substantially pointed tipped structures of metal are desired.

14. (original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the metal is copper.

15. (original) The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising:
coating the substantially pointed tipped structures of metal with a layer of a second metal.

16. (original) The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising:
coating the substantially pointed tipped structures of metal with a layer of thermoelectric material.

17. (original) The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising:
coating the layer of second metal with a layer of thermoelectric material.

18. (original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the substantially pointed tipped structures are conical shaped.

19. (original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the substantially pointed tipped structures are pyramid shaped.

20. (original) A system of forming metal pointed tips for use in a thermoelectric device, the system comprising:

means for forming a mask of patterned photoresist onto a layer of metal;

means for etching the layer of metal in the presence of the photoresist mask to produce substantially pointed tipped structures of metal; and

means for removing the photoresist.

21. (original) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the patterned photoresist forms an array of photoresist areas that correspond to areas for which tips of the substantially pointed tipped structures of metal are desired.

22. (original) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the metal is copper.

23. (original) The system as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
means for coating the substantially pointed tipped structures of metal with a layer of a second metal.

24. (original) The system as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
means for coating the substantially pointed tipped structures of metal with a layer of thermoelectric material.

25. (original) The system as recited in claim 23, further comprising:
means for coating the layer of second metal with a layer of thermoelectric material.

26. (original) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the substantially pointed tipped structures conical shaped.

27. (original) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the substantially pointed tipped structures are pyramid shaped.